

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS:

District Medical Officer of Health (and Divisional Medical  
Officer for North Herts. Area):

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Divisional Health Office,  
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Hitchin.  
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Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

S. M. JACKSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,  
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JOHN SPENCER, D.P.A., A.C.C.s., Clerk of the Council.



To the Chairman and Members of the  
Royston Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

Upon the direction of Ministry of Health Circular 2/53, I submit an annual report for the year 1952.

The local birth rate (12.9) and death rate (13.1) are both less favourable than the rates for England and Wales, though the latter is an improvement on the local death rate of 14.0 for 1951. However, the comparability factor (for death rates) of 0.86 supplied by the Registrar General shows the age composition of the local population to be well above the national average. Application of the factor supplied gives a 'standardised' death rate of 11.3.

During the year there was a marked absence of serious infectious disease from your district and infant welfare rates were favourable.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this report from Mr. S.M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for the section on sanitary matters. Also I would thank your Council and its chief officers for every consideration during the year.

I am, gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

June, 1953.

VICTOR R. WALKER.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	1626.
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1952						4,725.
Number of inhabited houses at 1st. April 1952 (estimated)						1,428.
Rateable Value (1st. April 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	£29,936.
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£117. 7. 7.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for  
the year 1952.

	<u>Totals.</u>	M.	F.	Royston Urban District.	Comparable rates for England & Wales.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u> (Legitimate	61	39	22		
(Illegitimate	-	-	-		
(All	<u>61</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>22</u>		

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.9 15.3

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	-	-	-
(Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 0.0 22.6

	<u>Totals</u>	M.	F.
<u>DEATHS.</u>	62	30	32

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.1 11.3

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births 32.8 27.6

Actual number of such deaths (a) under 4 weeks. and (b) totals under 1 year

Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	4
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases					0



## Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated local population for the mid-year 1952 shows an increase of 214 on that for mid-1951. Live births were 6 less than the previous year and deaths numbered 1 less.

Local still birth and infant death rates when added together were for 1952 more favourable than the added rates for England and Wales.

## SECTION B. Provision of Health Services for the area.

No important change took place during the year.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water Supply.

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses in the Eagle Tavern area, is supplied with water from the chalk by the Royston Water Company, by a piped supply of excellent quality.

The water supply situation in the Eagle Tavern area was investigated during the year, but it was not found possible to take any action in the provision of a piped supply. During a dry spell, water was carted to the cottages.

There are 3 houses at The Green which are supplied by means of a standpipe. All the other houses in the district are supplied from the water mains direct to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

No shortage was experienced during the year.

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Seven new houses built by private enterprise, and 56 new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

230 yards of 9" diameter sewer, 182 yards of 6" diameter sewer and 104 yards of 4" diameter sewer was laid on new Council Housing Sites.

A new Public Convenience was built in the Priory Memorial Grounds with 3 water closets in the Ladies section, and 2 water closets and a six stall urinal in the Men's section.

The provision of new sedimentation tanks, and the installation of pumping plant to lift the sewage from the low level sewer to the new tanks was completed and are proving efficient.

#### Refuse Removal and Disposal.

The motor refuse vehicle was overhauled and repainted during the year and continues to give good service.

The small number of complaints received indicates the smooth working of the collection and reflects credit on the men.

The cost of refuse removal for the year amounted to  
£907   "   17s   "   10d

The Tip at Coombes Hole was maintained as well as available labour allowed. Further sealing of the tipping area was carried out and a further length of the ditch running through the tip was piped to allow tipping over the same.

Rat infestation on the Tip and on the Sewage Farm was kept within reason by regular baiting and poisoning carried out by the Rodent Operator of the Joint Scheme for Rodent Control.

#### SALVAGE.

During the first four months of the year, 17 tons of waste paper was collected and sold for £271 7. 0.

In the last eight months no sales were possible and approximately 20 tons of paper had been collected, sorted and baled by the end of the year. No market was found for this but it was stored in the hope of finding an outlet, which in fact, occurred in the early part of 1953, though at a much reduced price.

The result of the National Waste Paper Contest organised by the Waste Paper Recovery Association Ltd. which covered the whole of the year 1951, was declared in the early part of 1952 and the Council were again in the list of prize winners, being awarded a prize of £50. The Council gave each of the four men engaged on salvage collection and handling the sum of £2.10.0. out of this prize.



The cost of collection, sorting and baling for the year was £526.2.7d., showing an excess of expenditure over income of £228.15.7d.

It would appear that the salvage scheme is not likely to show any financial advantage in the future.

### RODENT CONTROL.

The operation of the Joint Pest Control Scheme with the Hitchin and Welwyn Rural District Councils showed that useful work was carried out and in Royston the Rodent Operator's work covered the following:-

#### Hours worked:

Sewers  $39\frac{1}{2}$  hours, Refuse Tips etc.  $110\frac{1}{4}$  hours, Private dwellings  $98\frac{1}{4}$  hours, Business premises  $11\frac{1}{4}$  hours, Block Inspections  $11\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Inspection of Agricultural land 6 hours.

The number of rats and mice picked up following treatments were Rats 347, Mice 13.

The total number of inspections made during 1952 as a result of notification or otherwise was 235.

The scheme has worked smoothly, and I would like to record my appreciation of the work of the Senior Sanitary Inspector of the Hitchin Rural District Council, who has been in control of the scheme and acted as co-ordinating officer.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Defects under the Housing Acts	42
" " " Public Health Acts	156
" " " Factory Acts	20
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	7
Milk & Dairies Order	6
Food shops & Stores	42
Bakehouse Inspections	4
Prevention of Nuisances	92
House Drainage	28
Supervision of Salvage	54

Supervision of Refuse Collection & Disposal	49
Rats & Mice Destruction	235
Caravans & Moveable Dwellings	19
Miscellaneous Inspections	95

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Houses in Clearance Areas to be demolished	4
Statutory Notices served	6
Informal Notices served	81
Notices complied with	79
House roofs renewed or repaired	16
House windows repaired	8
House chimneys repaired	6
House floors renewed or repaired	22
House ceilings " "	24
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	19
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	36
Internal wall plaster repaired	30
House drains relaid or repaired	136 yds.
Gullies fixed	8
Intercepting traps fixed	2
New sinks fixed	5
Sinks renewed or repaired	7
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	16
W.C. roofs repaired	8
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	5
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	64
New baths fixed	4
Inspection chambers built	6
Inspection chambers repaired	4
New vent shafts fixed	3
New F.A.I. fixed	3
Water service pipes repaired	16
Dampness remedied	21
Yards paved or repaired	4
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	21
Hot water systems renewed or repaired	4
Staircases repaired	6
Blocked drains cleared & cleansed	18
Accumulations of rubbish removed	21
Houses disinfected	4
Bakehouse floors cleansed	2
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	4
Dairies cleansed & limewashed	2
Sanitary conveniences at factories repaired	4
" " " cleansed	4
New Sanitary conveniences provided at Licensed Premises	2



## Building Byelaws & Town & Country Planning.

Plans & Applications submitted	56
" " approved	54
" " disapproved	2
" " withdrawn	4
Approved for new houses	12
" " other buildings	26
" " change of user	1
" " advertisement signs	3
" " use of land	8
New houses completed:	
By local authority under Housing Acts	56
By Private Enterprise	7
Other buildings completed	25
Drains laid to above	1286 yds.
Gullies laid to above	81
Connections to sewer	28
Vent shafts fixed	53
Inspection Chambers built	76
Water closets fixed	92
Intercepting traps fixed	29
Baths fixed	54
Sinks fixed	53
Lavatory Basins fixed	60
Dustbins provided	63
Septic Tank installations	1

### SECTION D.

#### Housing

During the year, 26 new traditional brick houses and 30 "Unity" type houses were completed and occupied. Of these, 1 house was of 4 bedroom type, 2 of 2 bedroom type, and the remainder of 3 bedroom type.

Seven new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

At the end of the year the Council held two premises under requisition and these provide 6 family units of accommodation.

#### Ex P.O.W.Camp, Therfield Heath.

On this site, one family was rehoused and the hut demolished. during the year, leaving three huts housing five families, which it was hoped would be dealt with at an early date, thus clearing the site.

#### Clearance Areas.

4 houses in Clearance Areas still remain to be demolished. One of these is still occupied. Every effort is being made to complete the demolition and negotiations with the owners of the premises are in progress.

Informal action has been taken where essential repairs were necessary to render houses fit and satisfactory results have been obtained without resource to formal action, except in 3 cases where repairs were carried out following service of Statutory Notices.

## Control of Civil Building.

The Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor has continued to act as the officer responsible for the issue of Building Licences on behalf of the Minister of Works under Defence Regulation 56A.

During 1952, 16 licences to erect new dwelling houses were issued, 5 Supplementary Licences were issued to the value of £1,098 and 2 Licences were withdrawn.

Seven houses under licence were completed and occupied during the year.

9 licences were issued for essential works and repair to properties of a total estimated cost of £4,799.

The work licensed included the provision of bathrooms, the repair and renewal of roofs, eaves gutters and down-pipes, drains, external walls, internal wall plaster, ceilings, chimney stacks, floors, cooking and heating apparatus, water closets, sinks, baths and lavatory basins, the repair and painting of external wood and ironwork, internal redecorations and other essential works to bring the property up to a reasonable standard of repair.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk.

There are three milk producers in the district, one of whom is licensed by the County Council for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are 2 retail purveyors of milk in the district.

Periodic inspections of farms and dairies were made during the year.

#### Meat.

No slaughtering of animals is carried on in the district. Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers has been inspected and the following certified as unfit for human consumption:-

Beef (Home killed)	152 lbs.
Beef sausages	11 lbs.

## Other Foods.

Meat and other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed.

Ham (Imported)	107 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Sausage binder	2 cwts.
Butter	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Chocolate Teacakes	302
Sandwich cake	6 lbs.
Cheese	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Luncheon Meat	24 lbs. 10 ozs.
Currants	2 lbs.

## Tinned & Packetted Food.

Mincemeat	2 tins.
Mincemeat loaf	1 tin.
Pork brawn	1 "
Kidneys	1 "
Luncheon Meat ( 12 oz)	52 tins.
Jellied Veal ( 6 lbs)	2 "
Pork Sausages	5 "
Veal & Ham ( 4 lb.)	1 tin
Steak	5 tins.
Salmon	1 tin.
Sardines	6 tins.
Evaporated Milk	17 tins.
Beans	6 "
Peas	12 "
Plums	8 "
Prunes	1 tin.
Grapefruit juice	2 tins.
Apricots	3 "
Pineapple	1 tin.
Cherries	3 tins.
Strawberries	1 tin.
Grapefruit	2 tins.
Peaches	2 "
Sliced Bananas	3 "
Orange	2 "
Raspberry jam	2 "
Apricot "	5 "
Carrots	1 tin.
Tomatoes	23 tins.
Salad cream	1 "
Brisling	3 "
Herrings	21 "



### Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

### Green Plunge Swimming Pool.

Samples of water were taken from the above and analysis showed the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes.

### Factories Act, 1937.

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.  
(including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	Number of			
	No. in Register	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
I. Factories in which Secs.1,2,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	8	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	26	12	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority (excl. outworkers)	-	-	-	-
Total	35	20	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspect- or..	By H.M. Inspect- or.	No. of prose- cutions.
Want of cleanli- ness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	Nil	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	Nil	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent	Nil	-	-	-	-
Inneffective drainage of floors	Nil	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	Nil	-	-	-	-
Total	6	7	-	-	-

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

Total notifications of infectious disease during the year amounted to Measles 4 cases and Whooping Cough 4 cases, all during the fourth quarter.

Despite the long continued absence of diphtheria from the district, the offer of infant protection by immunisation continues to be accepted by a large majority of parents.

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TUBERCULOSIS.New Cases and Deaths during the Year.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
& over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths allocated by Registrar General after final transfers					-	-	-	-

Thus no single death from tuberculosis was recorded for 1952 while the total of new cases notified shows a noticeable reduction, amounting to 5 in all against 9 in 1951.

VICTOR R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.

